

Washington Township Environmental Commission (WTEC)
Morris County, New Jersey
Minutes of February 5, 2007, 7:30 PM Meeting
(Agenda Attached)

Prepared by: Mark Napolitano, Acting Chairman

I. Attendance:

Present: Mark Napolitano, Mervyn Haines, CJ Sinko, Kathy Smith

Absent: Frank Ferraro, Anthony LaVista, Valerie Walsh, TWP Liaison Ken

II. Approval of January 8, 2007 Meeting Minutes: Minutes of 1/8/07 were approved.

III. 2007 WTEC Regular Member / Advisory Member Appointments: Mark Napolitano stated that the TWP had contacted him with regard to WTEC regular member term renewals for Mr. LaVista and Mr. Ferraro. The TWP Clerk reminded Mr. Napolitano that each of the two members are required to take their oath of office as soon as possible. Since both Mr. LaVista and Mr. Ferraro were not in attendance, Mr. Napolitano stated that he will contact them both via e-mail.

IV. Rotating Chairman Schedule / Appointment of Permanent Chairman: Ms. Smith stated that she had been contacted by Mr. Short, asking if she was interested in being appointed as WTEC chairperson. Ms. Smith accepted, and she will be appointed at the next TWP Committee meeting. This rendered the discussion of the rotating chairman schedule overcome by events.

V. Appointment of Planning Board Member as WTEC Regular Member: Mr. Howard Popper, from the WT Planning Board, will be appointed at the next TWP Committee meeting as either the Planning Board liaison to the WTEC, or as a regular member of the WTEC.

VI. 2007 WTEC Budget: Discussion was held pertaining to the 2007 WTEC budget, which is pending TWP Committee approval in March. Based on the assumption that the budget amount will be the same as the previous year, discussion regarding expenditures for surface water testing and community education was held.

VII. Used Motor Oil Recycling Project: Mr. Napolitano contacted the WT Recycling Coordinator from the DPW, Ms. Nancy Salvatore, to coordinate and schedule the joint WTEC / Boy Scout project to collect and recycle used motor oil from TWP residents. The collection effort will be a one-time event one this spring, and each Scout will determine how many residents he will collect from (max 3 gallons per resident). Approval from DPW to bring 300 gallons maximum to the recycling center was received. Mr. Napolitano will prepare a brochure that each Scout will provide to his neighbors that explains why recycling used motor oil is important and the environmental impacts of illegal disposal. Mr. Napolitano will prepare a brief article for publication in the Observer Tribune to bring positive visibility to both the Boy Scout's

and the WTEC, as well as educate the public. Mr. Napolitano will be attending the next meeting of Boy Scout Troop 236 to present the project, and solicit interest.

VIII: WT Map of Environmental Points of Interest Project: Mr. Napolitano continued work on outlining the 8 ½ x 11 map of the TWP, creating a draft list of all nature trails and other points of environmental interest for inclusion. The draft will be brought to a subsequent WTEC meeting for discussion.

IX: Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement: Ms. Smith discussed proposing to the TWP Committee that WT participate in the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, so that the TWP could be more earth-friendly by installing low energy lighting retrofits, enhancing recycling efforts/education, etc. Ms. Smith suggested that the WTEC host a viewing of Al Gore's film entitled, "An Inconvenient Truth".

X. WT Dog Park / Letter from LV Dog Park Citizens Group: Discussion was held regarding the use of the Peter Carroll field on Rt. 517 as a dog park. No significant environmental impacts are known.

XI. WTEC Web Site Enhancement: Discussion was held addressing the addition of information to the WTEC website. For the WTEC's intended use, there is no limit to the amount of data that can be stored, or links that can be added. Each member will suggest types of data or links that should be added at our next meeting.

XII. Riparian Buffer Grant / Musconetcong River: After being contacted by Ms. Gail Werner, part-time WT Grant Writer, Mr. Napolitano researched a grant opportunity for the TWP to restore sections of riparian buffers along the Musconetcong River. Mr. Napolitano passed out literature pertaining to the grant opportunity and asked each member to review it and make a recommendation at the next meeting. Web site links were also forwarded electronically to all members. Mr. Napolitano will follow-up with Ms. Werner following the March WTEC Meeting.

XIII: 2007 SBWA Membership & MWA Membership: Mr. Napolitano discussed two invoices received for WTEC membership in the South Branch Watershed Association and the Musconetcong Watershed Association. Pending the approved 2007 budget for the WTEC, Mr. Napolitano asked for a vote on whether or not the WTEC should renew both memberships. It was unanimously agreed that membership in both organizations be renewed.

XIV. URWA Nature Day Camp: Information on the Upper Raritan Watershed Association's nature Day Camp was distributed for interest.

XV. Other Issues: No other issues were discussed.